

There is a proven method to improve the safety of airline seats that would significantly reduce deaths and injury. Instead of 'tweaking' the seat design I submit that the simple expedient of requiring seats to be rearward facing will save many more lives.

The impact force in any crash would be directed INTO the seat, and the occupants head would be forced into the headrest providing maximum support. Current designs rely solely on the seat belt to restrain the occupant - unless a five point harness is adopted (which would not be practical on passenger aircraft), the total impact force is concentrated on a narrow belt which inevitably leads to severe injury.

The fitting of rearward facing seats is in use on transport aircraft of the the UK's Royal Air Force. There would likely be some passenger surprise/resistance to rear facing seats but I believe that once the initial reaction is overcome they will be readily accepted. No single airline could risk the marketing backlash by unilaterally implementing this, but a federally mandated change would make all air carriers the same.

I sincerely believe this should be enacted as soon as possible.